

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 15, 1997

Warm greetings to everyone gathered in *Kansas City, Missouri*, for *Brownfields '97 A Partnering for a Greener Tomorrow*. I applaud the efforts of all the conference co-sponsors in developing this important event -- the American Bar Association, International City/County Management Association, U.S. Conference of Mayors, National Religious Partnership for the Environment, National Conference of Black Mayors, Environmental Council of States, Mortgage Bankers Association of America, Trust for Public Lands, and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Community revitalization continues to be a vital part of my Administration's strategy to strengthen America for the 21st century. The expansion of our Brownfields efforts is a central component of our overall community empowerment agenda, which is designed to give communities the tools they need to revitalize their neighborhoods. Through initiatives like Brownfields Redevelopment, Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities, and Community Development Financial Institutions, we are creating opportunities for *growth* and prosperity for all Americans.

Only by working together and strengthening private-public partnerships can we improve and empower our urban and rural areas- Your participation at *Brownfields '97* underscores the need to focus on cooperative approaches among federal agencies, community organizations, state and local governments, private industry, and academia to develop urban and rural brownfields. Your vision, energy, and commitment will help to keep our nation strong and our communities vital and prosperous.

Best wishes for a successful and productive conference.

*Bill Clinton*